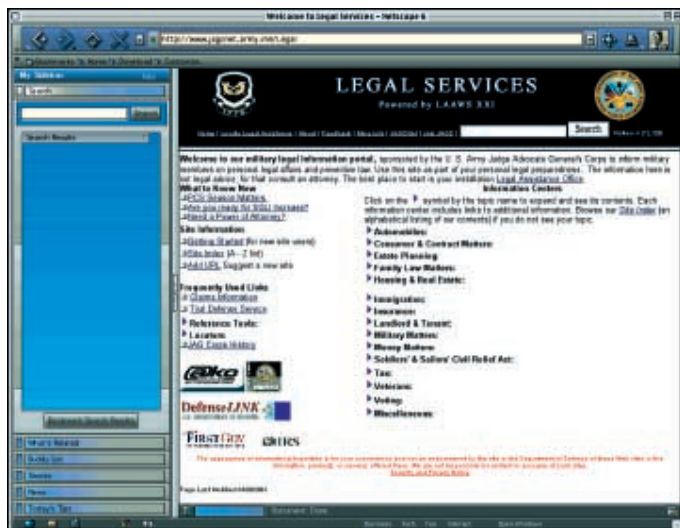


Soldiers
Online



The information provided on the legal portal is intended to help soldiers and their families make informed decisions about a range of personal legal issues.

Washington, D.C.

JAG Debuts Legal Services Site

THE U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps has launched a web site that provides legal information for military members and their families.

The site, www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal, includes information on personal legal assistance, claims, trial defense, and victim/witness information for the Army. It also provides preventive-law information and helps users find the nearest legal assistance office.

Through its site, the JAG Corps aims to provide soldiers and spouses with information to make informed decisions on personal legal affairs, maintain legal well-being and readiness, avoid consumer scams and minimize "legal" distractions.

The idea, said MG John D. Altenburg Jr., the assistant judge advocate general and JAG Corps' chief information officer, "is to provide soldiers and family members '24-7'

desktop access to useful information for their own legal preparedness. It is a great tool for soldiers and spouses to maintain their personal legal affairs."

The site is designed to be a doorway to Internet-based legal information and services for those eligible for military legal assistance under Title 10 of the United States Code, said Altenburg. The site does not offer legal advice, but provides information that should be considered to prevent legal problems or before consulting an attorney.

The JAG Corps legal site includes several main areas or pages, such as:

- A "Locate Legal Assistance" page that displays links to installation Legal Assistance websites and that connects to sites with instructions for finding military legal services information worldwide;
- A "Locator" page that helps users find a private attorney, regulation, publication or form, and connects to several people-locator services for military members; and
- Connecting information

pages to Army claims and military criminal matters information sites.

"Our site does not replace our personal service — private attorney-client consultation, but it does give soldiers an opportunity to decide when to seek counsel and to prepare better for that meeting," Altenburg said. "Soldiers, spouses and others eligible for legal assistance should use the site to obtain general information before seeing an attorney (either military or civilian). The site should immediately improve how many soldiers obtain legal assistance. Site users will have content available to research the law, obtain information, and prepare better for seeing an attorney." — *Army News Service*

Washington

Thrift Savings Plan Opens to Military

SERVICE members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, Department of Defense officials said.

The TSP is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army LTC Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DOD's Office of Military Compensation. "It's an optional program."

The sign-up season will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deduc-

Veterans Benefits

New GI Bill Benefits Offered May 1

PARTICIPANTS in the Montgomery GI Bill program were given the option, starting May 1, to increase their monthly stipends up to \$800.

Educational benefits legislation enacted into law in November allows MGIB participants serving on active duty three or more years to make new contributions maximizing the total to \$28,800, an increase of \$5,400.

This amount, combined with annual cost-of-living increases, will definitely help offset education costs for service members, said LTC George Richon, chief of Recruiting Resources Branch, Enlisted Accessions Division, under the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The payment will be matched by a 9-to-1 return on investment if the complete 36 months of benefit is used, Richon said.

Visit your Army education center for details of how the program works and to get forms and documents to begin the additional contribution. Actual payment arrangements will be made at the local installation's finance office.

Only those personnel who entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and enrolled in the MGIB program during the first two weeks of active duty are eligible to participate. Those "hundreds of thousands" of eligible individuals hoping to participate in the optional benefits program must contribute the additional funds only while serving on active duty, Richon said. — *ARNEWS*

tions start in January 2002. Service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from one to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat-zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however — 25 percent of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, service members must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds available. The funds run the gamut from safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund is tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

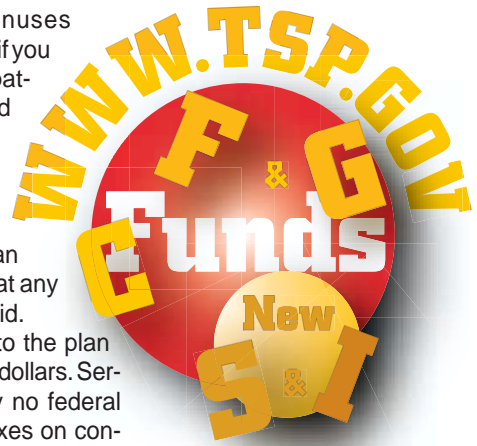
TSP unveiled the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Service members will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons each year. These are November to January and May to July.

"Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time," Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from "pretax" dollars. Service members pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they're withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the thrift plan's uniformed services page at www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information. — *American Forces Press Service*



Soldiers will be able to invest up to \$10,500 a year for their retirement under the government's Thrift Savings Plan.

American Auto Logistics, the prime contractor.

The cleaning process will save service members the frustrations of a failed inspection, along with commercial cleaning costs that vary from \$80-\$150 per vehicle, he said.

Service members must still turn in a clean vehicle at the service centers, including a vacuumed interior.

American Auto Logistics plans to conduct the cleaning and inspection of the majority of service member vehicles at the port of Bremerhaven, Germany. The firm will consolidate vehicles shipped from 13 centers in Germany, Belgium and northern Italy.

Moreover, Transcar performs an additional disinfectant process over and above the initial cleaning to ensure the Department of Agriculture requirements for foot-and-mouth disease are satisfied. This all takes place prior to any vehicle departing Europe.

American Auto Logistics ships an estimated 75,000 vehicles every year for the Military Traffic Management Command. — *ARNEWS*

MWR News

Chess Tournament Applications Due

THE 2001 All-Army chess tournament, scheduled for Aug. 11-17, will pit the Army's top 12 chess players against each other in the Washington, D.C., area.

Soldier application deadline is July 20. Soldiers who have been on active duty 90 days or more are eligible to apply for selection to the single round-robin competition rated by the United States Chess Federation and conducted by a USCF-rated tournament director.

Players are selected based on USCF-rated tournament activity, the level of tournament play and their current USCF ratings.

Applications must be submitted on DA Form 4878-R. Soldiers must also provide a release memorandum from their commanders, ensuring their availability for and approving their participation in both the Army and international competitions.

The top players from the Army championship will represent the United States in NATO competition in San Remo, Italy, in October.

Interested players can apply online, by fax or by mail. The form and detailed information are available online at www.armymwr.com. Click on Community Recreation Center Programs. — *Community and Family Support Center*

Washington

Cars Leaving Europe Steam Cleaned

U.S. service members based in Europe are getting a break when they ship their vehicles home.

They now have their vehicles steam cleaned, free, by a private contractor. The program, which began April 2, assists service members in meeting stringent shipping requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The inspections are designed to reduce the possibility of transmitting non-native insects and disease to the United States. Steam cleaning removes dirt and debris from inaccessible areas of the vehicle's undercarriage.

In essence, the contractor is accepting responsibility for meeting the Department of Agriculture requirements, said Bill Antonelli, vice president of

Transforming the Army

Story by Paul Boyce

1901 – 2001

AN uncertain world bringing new military responsibilities for the United States at the start of a new century. Promising changes in technology, communications and transportation. Leaders discussing a vision of a highly responsive Army to meet future challenges.

Many sketch this situation as the need for changes in today's Army. Historians remind us that these events are nearly a mirror image of similar circumstances 100 years ago. For the Army's 226th birthday on June 14, the theme "1901 — Transforming the Army — 2001" reflects today's forward-thinking transformation while acknowledging historical parallels with modern events.

Like today, the leaders of America's Army at the start of the 20th century sought to transform the service's capabilities. Secretary of War Elihu Root and MG Nelson Miles, commanding general of the Army, faced pressures for changes in a frontier-fighting army, said Dr.

L. Martin Kaplan of the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

After the Spanish-American War the United States' rise as a world power coincided with growing rivalries among several countries. Manning overseas possessions and guarding against possible danger from abroad all required not only a larger peacetime military, but also a better-prepared one.



Secretary of War
Elihu Root

Historians recognize several similarities between today's Army and the Army 100 years ago during the Root Reforms.

"This was an all-volunteer force, and the Army faced recruiting and retention challenges as it took on overseas responsibilities," Kaplan said. "Readiness was very much the topic of that day."

Army reform efforts included building closer bonds with the reserve components. In 1903 the National Guard began integrating with the Regular Army. By 1910 planners were anticipating joint Army-Guard divisions.

Excess infrastructure was also an issue. In 1901 many of the Army's posts across America reflected its earlier missions. Proposals to close some of the remote outposts caused Congressional concerns about

the loss of bases, and rarely received easy approval.

Not only the service's leaders and Congress faced change. Soldiers saw by the 1890s that improved weapons and the introduction of smokeless powder dramatically changed the battlefield.

"The adoption of rapid-fire and long-range smokeless-powder weapons made the battlefield more lethal, fostered decentralization, and resulted in demands for smarter, independent-thinking soldiers who could rely less on specific orders from officers," Kaplan said. Today's sophisticated equipment also requires highly educated soldiers who must train to fight on different battlefields and who can respond effectively in varying situations.

Technology, testing, experimentation and doctrine combined to make another parallel, said Kaplan and COL Richard J. McCallum, director of outreach in the Strategic Studies Institute at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

"The Army performed a review during this period and adopted doctrine for modern, combined arms warfare," Kaplan said. "In fact, the precursor to Army Field Manual 100, 'Operations,' came out by 1905, entitled 'Field Service Regulation.'"

The Root Reforms matured over a generation as the Army grew beyond its earlier continental-defense role. Root began Army experiments by 1902 that shaped divisions and tested

the combined abilities of infantry, cavalry and artillery units.

Today's digital age barely compares to the technology changes Army leaders and soldiers faced 100 years ago. The internal combustion engine eventually would replace the "legacy transportation system" of that time, the horse. Electrical communications continued to expand. The airplane added a third dimension to the battlefield.

"The study of military history reveals an important principle: As technological change progresses and actual experience in war recedes, established military theory becomes less realistic unless military organizations sustain their quest for vitality, innovation and experimentation," McCallum wrote in a recent article for Armed Forces Journal International.

Kaplan reminds Pentagon groups he speaks with that change often takes a generation to take effect. Information warfare and speed-of-light computer communications merely are part of today's generation of change, but these changes aren't unique in history.

Many historians pushed two years ago for the American soldier to be the "person of the century." Nearly all agree that soldiers will remain the engine behind the Army's capabilities in the 21st century. □

Paul Boyce is an Army public affairs officer at the Pentagon. This article was based on COL Richard J. McCallum's earlier piece for Armed Forces Journal.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310



ARMY BIRTHDAY 2001

April 12, 2001

226 years ago, the Continental Army formed with the goal of ending tyranny and winning our freedom. Since the end of the Revolution, American soldiers, imbued with the spirit of the original patriots, have pledged their allegiance to our Nation through their sacrifices in uniform.

Today, all our forces—heavy and light, Active, Guard, and Reserve—share the heritage of the Continental Army. Whether standing a dangerous watch in Korea, safeguarding schoolchildren in Bosnia, or fighting wildfires in Idaho, you are the finest men and women the Nation has to offer. The thousands of you on point around the globe ensure the freedom our forefathers fought and died for, and do the tough jobs that maintain our American way of life. In the remotest corners of the world, you command respect because you are American Soldiers.

The key to The Army's success has always been both its reverence for the traditions that make our Nation great and its flexibility and willingness to change. Our Army is transforming to an Objective Force that will meet the challenges of the 21st Century. This new Force will be as lethal and survivable as our heavy forces, but also as responsive and deployable as our light forces. Our transformation will thus ensure that The Army remains the best fighting force in the world: unchallenged and unparalleled.

On this, the first Army birthday of the new millennium, as a tangible symbol of our transformation, our unity, and our commitment to excellence as The Army, we will begin wearing the black beret. The color black represents the heritage of both our heavy and our light formations. It is the black of night that hid Washington as he crossed the Delaware and the black of the grease that kept our tanks on track in Operation Desert Storm. The Army flash commemorates our heritage as an Army, bearing both the colors of George Washington's Continental Army at the time of the deciding victory of the Revolution, as well as the 13 white stars of our Nation's 13 original colonies.

You represent what is most noble about our Nation: liberty, freedom and unity. As the symbol of our transformed Army, you are, and will continue to be, respected by your allies, feared by your opponents, and esteemed by the American people. Your courage, dedication to duty, and selfless service to the Nation will remain the hallmark you, the Soldiers of the United States Army, carry into the 21st Century.

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Joseph W. Westphal
Acting Secretary of the Army